China's Assistance to Pakistan

2003. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of China's assistance to Pakistan to build up its air power particularly at the time of tensions at the Indo-Pak borders;

(b) whether the issue was discussed with the Chinese premier during his visit to the country; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto stating its reflection on the Indo-China friendly relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Government remains concerned at certain aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship which adversely affects our security. This includes Sino-Pak Defence Cooperation including in the nuclear weapons and missile development programme. We have made known our concerns to the Chinese side. Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Lower Labour Cost

2004. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank study recently conducted on the investment climate in India reveals that India's advantage of lower labour cost is neutralized by its lower productivity;

(b) whether the study also recorded variations on value added per worker across the States with States having better investment climate enjoys higher labour productivity;

(c) whether under the "value added per worker" category India is far below the other countries but in the Value added per unit of labour cost India is at par with other countries; and

(d) what steps are being taken to end the huge disparity in labour productivity among the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to a World Bank-CII report (January 2002) on "Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing" India's advantage of lower labour cost is neutralised by its lower productivity.

(b) The same report states that variations on 'value added per worker' across the States indicate that States having better investment climate enjoy higher labour productivity.

(c) According to the report, in the value added per worker' category, India's is for below other countries but it is at par with other countries in case of 'value added per unit of labour cost'. The labour productivity of India and other countries are, however, not comparable as there are significant variations in the concept used and methodologies adopted.

(d) The planning process in India has aimed at creating conditions for improvement in labour productivity through provision of training, up-gradation of skills and improvement in tool-kits, equipment and production techniques. The resources have been accordingly directed through the plan programmes towards achieving this objective.

Protection of Labour Interest

2005. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise their own standards for globalization to the needs and aspiration of the country for protecting labour interest; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps likely to be taken to protect the labour interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There is a need for every country to have an understanding of the process of globalisation and to